



Issue 11

FLEET MASTER CHIEF JOHN MINYARD

December 2010



Hello Shipmates and Happy Holidays!

It's hard to believe an entire year has gone by so quickly. The holiday season is upon us once more and I don't mind telling you it's one of my favorite times of the year.

Even though I don't expect to see any snow here in Hawaii, there's just something special about the holiday season. No matter where you are or what you're doing, the holidays seem to bring out the best in all of us. It makes things brighter and helps to refresh the body, spirit and mind.

Maybe it's because we all take a moment to share a little of ourselves and give something back to our fellow man. Maybe it's because there are so many religious holidays celebrated in such a short period of time that it's hard not to catch the holiday spirit. And there's the thrill of the upcoming Army-Navy football game scheduled for December 11th.

With so many things happening at one time, it's easy to forget we have ongoing operational commitments around the world, and Shipmates who will not be able to enjoy the holidays because they are standing the watch and keeping our country safe.

I know many of you are planning to spend time with your families and loved ones, but I ask that you take a few minutes to think about your fellow Shipmates who are on deployment or supporting operations in foreign countries. They are standing the watch so that we may enjoy the opportunity to spend time with our families and loved ones.

I hope you make the most of this season, take time to give something back - volunteer at a homeless shelter, or drop a toy off at Toys for Tots to help out a child in need. Experience the joy of giving.

I also challenge all of you to be safe this holiday season. Enjoy yourselves and celebrate responsibly, be smart and plan ahead. Take advantage of some of the tools the Navy offers you. If you are traveling over the holidays, check out the Travel Risk Planning System (TRiPS) and practice good Operational Risk Management (ORM). Plan ahead for bad weather, high volumes of traffic and watch out for fatigue. Also, make sure you check your vehicle to see if everything is in good running condition; inspect your tires and replace them if needed, and pack an emergency kit in the trunk. And NO Drinking and Driving - PERIOD! It's bad enough worrying about other drivers on the road; you don't have to make the chances of an accident worse by having a drink or two and then trying to drive. You'll end up just being another statistic and turning an otherwise joyous occasion into something more tragic.

To help make sure your trip is safe and successful, I encourage you to visit the Naval Safety Center or National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration websites at www.safetycenter.navy.mil and www.nhtsa.gov. Both sites offer a lot of great tips to help make your holiday season a safe one.

Shipmates, I've kept you from your holiday plans long enough, so I'll close this letter by saying thanks. Thank you for your service to our great country, for your superb performance in the important work you do each and every day, and for making me the proudest Sailor in the fleet.

Mele Kalikimaka (Merry Christmas) & Happy Holidays Shipmates!

Very Respectfully,
Fleet Minyard

Eye on Ethos

USS Halsey (DDG 97)

BM3(SW) Andrea Renney exemplifies the Navy Core Values and Ethos in her daily life onboard USS Halsey. She is committed to her team as testified by her qualifications as Coxswain, Deck POIC, Underway Replenishment POIC, Boatswain Mate of the Watch (BMOW) and Landing Signal Enlisted (LSE). She is qualified in positions normally held by a second class petty officers but due to shortfalls in manning she has stepped up and filled in tremendously. She is a mentor to her divisional subordinates and all of the junior Sailors in Operations department. Petty Officer Renney has the courage to perform the most demanding duties onboard the ship, whether it's flight deck operations or safely running the Slew-ing Arm Davit and has the fortitude to instill safety and procedural compliance in everyone she mentors. She is proud of being a Boatswain's Mate and wears her uniform with honor. She consistently displays a sharp appearance and exhibits herself as a role model onboard the ship. Petty Officer Renney is the epitome of a professional Sailor.

Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan

YNSN Bryan Z. Isbell consistently distinguishes himself through his exceptional work ethic in all daily duties that he executes. In addition to flawlessly processing more than 1,000 pieces of correspondence to include awards, instructions, FITREPs, evaluations, and messages, his infectious "can do" spirit has resulted in improved morale and increased production and productivity throughout the command. He is a hand-selected member of the NAF Atsugi Color Guard, and has performed in retirement, change of command and numerous other ceremonies throughout the base. As treasurer of the Junior Enlisted Association, he meticulously managed more than \$3,000 in funds. Seaman Isbell has also volunteered countless off-duty hours to community service during the Enoshima Beach and Misono Orphanage clean up, Shirley Lanham Elementary School's Carnival, and the Cherry Blossom open base event. His presence and commitment have improved quality of life for Sailors and promoted friendship between Japanese citizens and U.S. Forces personnel. His superb efforts culminated in his selection as NAF Atsugi's 2010 Blue Jacket of the Year. He is without doubt living up to our Core Values and Navy Ethos.

On the Horizon

This year's Army-Navy game is scheduled for Saturday, December 11, at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia, Penn. This will be the 111th meeting between the Army Black Knights and the Navy Midshipmen since 1890 and the Midshipmen are looking to increase their 54-49-7 series lead. Go Navy!

NPC is soliciting applications for board members to serve on the FY-12 active duty and reserve E-9, E-8 and E-7 selection boards. Nomination packages for the Navy Reserve E-9/E-8 combined board are due to PERS-815 by Dec. 6, Active Duty E-9 nominations are due by Dec. 17, and Active Duty E-8 board nominations are due by Jan. 18. See NAVADMIN 336/10 for additional details or visit www.npc.navy.mil/boards/ to download the application.

The CPO Advancement Exam will be held Jan. 20 for all eligible first class petty officers.

Mid-term counseling for E-4s are due on Dec. 15.



PACIFIC OCEAN (Nov. 25, 2010) Culinary Specialist 1st Class Lemuel ManLogon from Stokton, Calif. places garnishes and a cornucopia on a display table in the aft mess decks in preparation for a Thanksgiving dinner and celebration aboard USS George Washington (CVN 73). (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class David A. Cox)



INDIAN OCEAN (Nov. 12, 2010) Quartermaster 3rd Class Kevin Bell plots a course in the chart room of the forward-deployed amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD 2). Essex, commanded by Capt. Troy Hart, is part of the forward-deployed Essex Amphibious Ready Group. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Casey H. Kyhl)

Scuttlebutt

Issues and Answers from the Fleet.

Issue: I heard that a lot of evaluations were rejected by NPC due to improper PFA codes. Will that affect any upcoming selection boards?

Answer: The Navy Personnel Command's (NPC) Performance Evaluation Division did experience an increase in rejected evaluations due to changes in the Navy's physical fitness assessment (PFA) codes, which were implemented in August of this year. You should have been notified if your evaluation was rejected and hopefully corrected the problem already, but in order to ensure the upcoming boards have a complete record to review, affected Sailors can submit uncorrected fitness reports and evaluations as official correspondence directly to the selection board for consideration. In the meantime, I suggest you check your Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) and FITREP/Evaluation Report regularly, you can access them through Bupers Online at www.bol.navy.mil.

Issue: There are a lot of rumors about pay freezes and cutting military benefits. How much truth is there to this?

Answer: There's no doubt that our government is facing some tough financial decisions and there are a lot of solutions being looked at and discussed; including budget cuts in the Department of Defense and other branches of the federal government. That being said, these items are still in the exploratory stage and it would be pointless to speculate on the eventual outcome. Keep in mind that the Navy has already taken significant steps to reduce operating costs and improve efficiency through the Fleet, and we will continue to do so. What we need to focus on right now is the mission at hand and not waste time guessing at what budget cuts may or may not happen in the future.

For more News and Information about U.S. Pacific Fleet visit:

<http://www.cpf.navy.mil>

<http://twitter.com/PacificFleet>

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